

handgun myself. It is so powerful it can penetrate a bulletproof vest from as far as two football fields away. It is every bit as deadly as an assault rifle, but the Five-Seven can easily be concealed, putting law enforcement officials even more at risk.

Bulletproof vests are unfortunately sometimes the only protection that our law enforcement officials possess. If vests are no longer able to protect them, we are putting all of our police officers in great peril.

In fact, earlier this month there was a report in the press that a Mexican police officer was shot and killed by a Five Seven handgun despite the fact he was wearing a bulletproof vest.

Do not let this tragedy repeat itself here in the United States.

This is the type of gun that one would expect only to be available to the military, not citizens on the street. But I have heard from law enforcement officials in my district, in New York, that these guns have been confiscated all across the country. And not long ago, the Brady Campaign was able to purchase one just a few miles from here in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Now is the time for Congress and the Bush administration to ban this weapon.

That is why today I am reintroducing the PLEA Act to ban the sale, importation and possession of this gun.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence in supporting this important legislation. If you support law enforcement officers, then you should support banning this weapon.

INTRODUCING THE WILLIAM H. FRIST GIFT OF LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the William H. Frist Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act with my colleague, Mr. CAMP of Michigan. This legislation creates a congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation. It is an important piece of legislation that I hope will continue to receive bipartisan support. I also want to thank Senator DURBIN and Senator GRASSLEY for introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

Former Senate majority leader and transplant surgeon Dr. William H. Frist was a tireless advocate of organ donors and their families during his time in the Senate. Dr. Frist worked on behalf of the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act for years, and I'm pleased to name the bill in his honor.

There is a serious shortage of available and suitable organs for donation. Nearly 100,000 people are currently waiting for organ transplants—over 2,000 of these are children under age 18. The national waiting list has grown substantially every year. Since the waiting list began, at least 75,000 donation-eligible Americans have died waiting for an organ to become available—in 2005 alone, over 6,000 people died for lack of a suitable organ. Donating an organ to someone whose life de-

pends on it is laudable, and should be recognized and encouraged. The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is an important bill which would do just that.

Health and Human Services—HHS—has already implemented initiatives to raise the public awareness of this vital act of giving life. The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is a great opportunity for us to work with HHS to draw attention to this life-saving issue. It sends a clear message that donating one's organs is an act that should receive the profound respect of our Nation.

The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act establishes a nonprofit fund to be used to design, produce, and distribute a congressional commemorative medal to organ donors or to a surviving family member. Enactment of this legislation would have no cost to the Federal Government. Startup costs are provided by the Treasury Department in the form of a loan, which would be fully repaid. Subsequently, the program would be self-sufficient through charitable donations.

This is noncontroversial, nonpartisan legislation to increase the rate of organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donation. I urge swift passage of the William H. Frist Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON HIGASHI SCHOOL

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Boston Higashi School's 20th anniversary. Since 1987, the Boston Higashi School has been treating children with autism and pervasive developmental disorders. Their dedicated work helps students benefit from and contribute to society while bringing hope and joy to their families.

Autism, a lifelong, nonprogressive developmental disability, results from still unspecified impairments to normal brain development. Impairments in social interaction, communication and in the capacity for imaginative and symbolic thinking characterize this syndrome. Autism varies in severity from person to person. Therefore, individuals are often described as having autism spectrum disorder.

The Boston Higashi School bases its philosophy in the world-renowned tenets of Daily Life Therapy developed by the late Dr. Kiyo Kitahara of Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Kiyo Kitahara's method provides children with systematic education through the intermingling of academics and technology, as well as art, music and physical education. This educational approach is intended to help individuals achieve social independence and dignity.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with the faculty, students and families of this fine institution in celebrating the school's 20 years of dedicated service. I would like to commend their perseverance and patience in coping with

the day-to-day realities of this disorder and wish them well. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the mission and accomplishments of the Boston Higashi School and its dedication to helping students and their families.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACCELERATION ACT OF 2007

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce, along with Representatives PHIL ENGLISH and MIKE THOMPSON, the Broadband Deployment Acceleration Act of 2007. This legislation will allow immediate depreciation of the costs of new broadband infrastructure investments, speeding the deployment of broadband communications technology. The U.S. currently lags far behind many other industrialized nations in broadband deployment. At a time when America's global economic leadership is facing rising challenges from abroad, this bill will promote innovation and keep America competitive.

By increasing the reach and capability of America's broadband network, the Broadband Deployment Acceleration Act is a strategic investment that will benefit the education of our children, the delivery of health care and the overall economy. In the classroom, broadband will provide children and teachers with access to new information and learning tools, and allow for remote learning opportunities. At hospitals and doctors' offices, broadband will facilitate the application of information technology to health care, reducing costs and improving the quality of care that patients receive. Broadband will also increase productivity and efficiency in homes and at businesses, while giving our constituents access to information and communications capabilities as never before. The need for the Broadband Deployment Acceleration Act is clear and now is the time for Congress to act.

Similar legislation received broad bipartisan support in the past, with as many as 225 House cosponsors and 65 Senate cosponsors. This bill was an important priority for my late husband, who worked along with Mr. ENGLISH, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator BAUCUS, and the late Senator Moynihan to craft it in 2000. It passed the Senate three times, only to be stripped out in conference by the House. I wish that our constituents were already benefiting from the effects of this legislation, and we should not delay enactment any longer.

The Broadband Deployment Acceleration Act will provide a temporary, two-tiered tax incentive to stimulate new investment in this crucial infrastructure: 50 percent expensing for investment in "current-generation" broadband infrastructure in rural and underserved areas, and full expensing for "next generation" broadband investments in those same areas, as well as residential areas generally. The purpose of this mechanism is to push broadband providers to roll out services in areas and at speeds that would not be economically feasible in the absence of this legislation. Therefore, this bill will not reward action that is already occurring.